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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Condition of Training:

The state of training of the people's police (Volkspolizei) units must be described as poor. The back-bone of the service group (Dienstbetrieb) of the VPKA (Volkspolizei Kreisaemter), as far as it can be correctly established, is composed of the age group of 30 years, and above, and here only those persons who, in the preceding years, had successfully completed one of the VP special schools (circa 50 persons). The great turnover in personnel, with its inherent downward tendency in qualifications, has led to a rapid decline in the performance in the VPKA. At present people are employed here who are not qualified for either inside or outside assignments, and who really should not be allowed to hold public office, since they lack the most basic requirements. The period from July to October 1953 in the Erfurt VPKA can serve as an example of this personnel turnover. During this period 170 new men were enlisted. Of these 170 men, 60 were transfers from the KVP (in some cases replacements for dismissed personnel) where for various reasons they had been classified as unfit. These reasons included: a. physical condition; b. more than three disciplinary demerits within a certain period; c. complete incapability; d. other reasons. Among these types were found men, with whom every attempt at police training miscarried. In part, these were persons who had great difficulty in mastering the alphabet. A considerable percentage were not capable of formulating a few sentences concerning their personal history and turned in, after more than an hour's deliberation, an almost blank paper with a scarcely legible name thereon. In spite of this, the applicants upon special instructions by the Political Officer usually were successful in obtaining a position with the police and in being entrusted with tasks which put them in constant contact with the population. A second reason for the decrease in the standard of performance lies in the fact that the capacities of the training schools are in no way sufficient to train new blood or to create a capable cadre stock. A simple statistical survey will clarify this point. The teaching period in the training schools is nine months, the capacity of the Aschersleben school 400-500 persons.

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This is the largest of the schools, all others having much less capacity. To the last course of study in Aschersleben, the Erfurt VPKA, one of the largest in the DDR, could send only five men. Therefore, figuring on a total of 234 Volkspolizei offices, an average of 1.5 to 2.5 men per office attend the course in a nine-month period. At the end of the course, even this contingent nevertheless cannot be fully utilized by the VPKA's for the following reasons:

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- a. those who passed the course with considerable success are for the most part recruited into the BdVP (Behoerden der Volkspolizei) or used for other tasks;
- b. a very large percentage of the men just barely pass the course and are in no position to pass on their knowledge to others in the VPKA or to act as leaders to subordinate officials;
- c. during the schooling another screening takes place during which a certain percentage are dismissed from the VP.

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This then leads to the fact that the number of adequately trained new recruits is much smaller than that of persons dismissed or suspended during the same period, so that the stock of trained personnel becomes progressively thinner. The decreasing educational standard in the schools--especially since 1951--has not even been taken into consideration. The point to be noted here is the fact--universal in East Germany--that the view-point of political orientation has become increasingly stronger while emphasis on professional demands and the value of professional performance have become correspondingly lower. Today the political representatives are informing the schools that political indoctrination ranks before all professional police instruction and all professional skills.

## 2. Personalities:

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- a. Engelmann, Willy, inspector, chief of the BdVP in Gera, started out with the rank of Oberkommissar, was formerly with the FDJ.

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- b. Schmehrke, inspector, chief of the BdVP in Cottbus, no military man, was formerly in Potsdam.

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- c. Schmidt, Heinz, PK deputy in the VPKA in Erfurt. Is responsible for political training in the VPKA. He spent one year at the PK institute in Berlin.

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- d. Neumann, Walter, chief of the VPKA in Erfurt. Works with both the SSD and the MVD.

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- e. Eisenaescher, Willy. Is responsible for schooling and propaganda in the BdVP in the Erfurt area.

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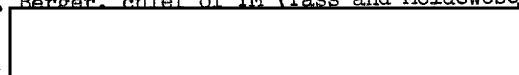
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f. Roewekamp



g. Gayda, chief of the SSD, Erfurt division

h. Berzer, chief of PM (Pass and Meldewesen) division, Erfurt



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